

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for identifying one of a plurality of devices in a model
2 vehicle system, comprising:
 - 3 positioning a remote control device near a first one of said devices;
 - 4 transmitting between said first device and said remote, such that only a narrow
5 transmission is received, so that said first model vehicle is not interfered with by other
6 devices, and only said first device responds to said transmission; and
7 transmitting data between said first device and said remote control device.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said narrow transmission is achieved
2 by recessing a detector.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said narrow transmission is achieved
2 by recessing a transmitter.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmission is an infrared
2 transmission.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said first device transmits an
2 identification code to said remote control device.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said first device repeatedly transmits.
- 1 7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first device transmits said
2 identification code in response to a transmitted request from said remote control.
- 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said remote control device transmits a
2 signal which is reflected off a reflective code on said device.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said device is an accessory.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said device is a model vehicle.
- 1 11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:
2 determining an ID of said model vehicle from said limited field transmission;
3 and

4 providing a command to said model vehicle from said remote, using said ID,
5 along a communication channel separate from said limited field transmission.

1 13. A method for identifying one of a plurality of model trains,
2 comprising:

periodically transmitting from a first model train an ID for said first model train in a limited field infrared transmission;

5 positioning a remote control device near said first model train so that only a
6 transmission from said first model train is received by an infrared receiver in said remote
7 control device:

8 associating, in said remote control, at least one control input with a control
9 function for said vehicle with said ID

10 providing a command to said model train from said remote control device,
11 using said ID, along a communication channel separate from said limited field transmission.

1 14. A model vehicle comprising:

2 a processor configured to receive commands from a remote control unit via
3 commands received from a communication channel;

4 a transmitter mounted in said vehicle for directing a transmission that can be
5 received by said remote control unit independent of said communication channel; and

means for limiting said transmission so that only a narrow transmission is received from a single vehicle is received by said remote control unit when positioned in a field of said transmission.

1 15. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said processor is programmed
2 to periodically cause an ID associated with said model vehicle to be transmitted by said
3 transmitter.

1 16. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said transmitter comprises an
2 IR LED, and where said means for limiting the transmission of said transmission comprises a
3 barrier around said LED formed by a recess in said model vehicle.

1 17. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said transmitter is mounted in a
2 windshield of said vehicle.

1 18. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said vehicle is a train, and said
2 communication channel is over the train tracks.

1 19. A remote control unit for controlling a plurality of model vehicles,
2 comprising:

3 a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to designated
4 vehicles identified by IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over a first
5 communication channel;

6 a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a transmission
7 from a first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, with an ID of said
8 first model vehicle; and

9 said processor being configured to send a command to said first model
10 vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission,
11 in response to a user input.

1 20. The remote control unit of claim 19 wherein:

2 said model vehicle is a model train;

3 said transmission is an IR transmission; and

4 said first communication channel includes providing commands to said model
5 train over the train tracks.

1 21. A system for controlling model vehicles, comprising:

2 a first model vehicle including

3 a processor configured to receive commands via commands a first
4 communication channel,

5 a transmitter mounted in said first model vehicle for directing a
6 transmission that can be received independent of said first communication channel, and

7 means for limiting said transmission so that only a narrow transmission
8 is received from a single vehicle is received by a receiver positioned in said field of said
9 transmission; and

10 a remote control unit for controlling said model vehicles, including

11 a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to
12 designated vehicles identified by IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over said
13 first communication channel;

14 a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a
15 transmission from said first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, with
16 an ID of said first model vehicle; and

17 said processor being configured to send a command to said first model
18 vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission,
19 in response to a user input.